

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04913 131342Z  
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /015 W  
-----035857 131357Z /53

R 131200Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO USIA WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8921

UNCLAS JIDDA 4913

USIAC

USIA FOR INA  
STATE FOR CU/NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJ: VIKING LANDER -- UNIVERSITY RIYADH ASTRONOMY WEEK.

REF: STEWART-WIMMELL TELECON. JULY 5, JIDDA 2994.  
STATE 061819, JIDDA -2082.

1. PLANNED U. RIYADH ASTRONOMY WEEK POSPONED FROM EARLY  
SEPTEMBER TO LATE OCTOBER. DATES NOW SET OCTOBER 29-  
NOVEMBER 2.

2. SCIENCE FACULTY ORGANIZERS AND ASTRONOMY WEEK WOULD  
BE MOST INTERESTED. PLEASED, HAVE VIKING LANDER AS  
CENTERPIECE FOR OCCASIONS. THEY ARE HOWEVER SKEPTICAL OF  
ABILITY AFFORD ANYWHERE NEAR ESTIMATED 30,000 FULL COST  
SHIPMENT LANDER TO RIYDH FROM PARIS OR DAMASCUS,  
AND RETURN US, SIZEABLE USG CONTRIBUTION TO THESE  
COSTS WOULD PROBABLY ENCOURAGE THEM TO REQUEST FUNDS  
FOR BALANCE. 50-50 COST SHARING MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE.

3. IF COST SHARING ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT,  
PROBLEM OF LANDER STORAGE PERIOD BETWEEN CLOSE  
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DAMASCUS FARE AND OPENING ASTRONOMY WEEK WOULD  
REMAIN. TENTATIVE INTEREST SEEMS SUFFICIENT  
WARRANT GUESS THAT STORAGE IN RIYADH COULD BE WORKED  
OUT.

4. DEPUTY DEAN FACULTY SCIENCE HAS PROPOSED VIKING  
LANDER PROJECT TO DEAN AND RECTOR. TENTATIVE REACTION

POSITIVE. MEANTIME, REQUEST AGENCY CONSIDER  
ALTERNATIVE TO TOTAL SAUDI FUNDING TRANSPORT, ADVISE.

5. UNIVERSITY HAS WRITTEN DIRECTLY TO VARIOUS US  
COMPANIES INVITING PARTICIPATION, AT INVITEE'S EXPENSE,  
IN EXHIBITS/ CONFERENCES ASTRONOMY WEEK. NASA ALSO  
INVITED SEND REPRESENTATIVE ON SAME TERMS, AGENCY,  
DEPARTMENT, MAY WISH RECOMMEND NASA AND COMMERCE COORDI-  
NATE US REPRESENTATION ASTRONOMY WEEK.

6. WOULD AGENCY AUDIO-VISUAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE OTHER  
THAN LANDER?  
STEWART

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009